

1950's Missions Fun Facts

- In 1952 there were 38,994 Nazarenes in World Mission regions
- In 1952 the Church of the Nazarene was in 32 world areas. By 1959 we were in 38.
- In 1952 there were 301 Nazarene missionaries on the field
- In the 1950's there were no regular or Phase Four districts in Nazarene world mission areas.
- In 1952 the name of what is now Nazarene Missions International (NMI) was changed from Women's Foreign Missionary Society to Nazarene Foreign Missionary Society. At that time, men were admitted to membership for the first time.
- The first [Alabaster](#) offering report was in 1950 when \$46,600 was received.
- [Paul Orjala](#) went to Haiti in 1950 (he went on to teach at Nazarene Seminary in Kansas City for a number of years). [Don Owens](#) (later Nazarene General Superintendent) went to Korea in the early 1950's. The Eckels were in Japan. Wanda (later NMI director) and Sidney [Knox](#) went to Papua New Guinea in 1955. William and Betty Sedat were in Guatemala.
- Mary Scott became executive director of what is now NMI in 1950.
- In 1948, [Alfredo Del Rosso](#) from Italy became the first non-U.S./non-British/non-Canadian to speak at a General Assembly. He spoke again at the General Assembly in 1952.
- The countries entered by the Church of the Nazarene in the 1950's:
 - 1950 -- Haiti, Jordan, Lebanon
 - 1952 -- New Zealand
 - 1953 -- Panama
 - 1955 -- Papua New Guinea
 - 1956 -- Taiwan
 - 1957 -- Malawi
 - 1958 -- Brazil, West Germany
- We Nazarenes hit the ground running in Haiti. We now have almost 500 churches in that one small country. West Germany also became the base for reaching into the Netherlands, Denmark and Switzerland (where the European Nazarene Bible College was begun in the 1960's).
- The idea of local churches giving [10% to missions](#) emerged in [1949](#). By 1952 there were three 10% districts.
- The 1952-56 quadrennial theme for Nazarene missions was "I must work - - for the night cometh." The 1956-1960 quadrennial theme was "Up! This is the day!"
- In [1952](#) Helen Temple became editor of *The Other Sheep* (later *World Mission*) magazine for the Nazarene Department of World Mission. In addition to editing the magazine, Temple went on to write more than 60 books of missionary stories for adults and children.
- The first reading books for children appeared in [1957](#).

- We began the Spanish-language radio broadcast in [1953](#), the first "foreign" language Nazarene broadcast. In [1956](#) a Nazarene radio program was developed in Japan.
- In 1954 the NMI sponsored a \$100,000 offering to open the work in Papua New Guinea.
- In 1956 the "Star Society" program was inaugurated for those local church groups now called Nazarene Missions International or NMI. The five points of the star were:
 - Membership
 - Subscriptions to monthly *Other Sheep* missions magazine
 - Missionary book readers
 - [Prayer and Fasting league](#) members
 - Successful completion of study book lessons

Source: Howard Culbertson
Southern Nazarene University
6729 NW 39th
Bethany, OK 73008